

ABSTRACT

This invention provides a method to background format an optical recording medium. The optical recording medium comprises defect management areas (DMAs). Each DMA comprises a data area (DA) and a spare area (SA). Each DA and each SA
5 comprise packets to record digital data. Each packet comprises blocks. Each block has a corresponding address for distinguishing the blocks. The background formatting method is to establish a format recording table with recording units to record whether the packets in the DMAs have recorded digital data. Store the format recording table in a memory. When format a certain packet in the optical recording
10 medium, inspect the corresponding recording unit in the format recording table. If the corresponding unit indicates that there is no digital data in the current packet, start formatting. Otherwise, skip the current packet and format the next packet.